REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 21, 2002 with claims 1 through 19. Claims 1 through 19 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application.

5   In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Abecassis (United States Patent Number 6,408,128).

Independent Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14 and 18

Independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Abecassis. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that
10   Abecassis teaches wherein the digest server converts the meta data into characteristic values (col. 19, lines 35-55), wherein the digest server calculates an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments (col. 56, lines 49-54). The Examiner asserts that Abecassis teaches "'the video map could...provide information which may be utilized to assess the relative importance of segments'...(col. 56, lines 49-54), where '[t]he video
15   map's data is provided with the video's video and audio data' (col. 16, lines 35-37), therefore the video digest 'automatically' assigns the importance level before the data is delivered to the client." Furthermore, the Examiner asserts that "a machine assigns the importance level (relevance rating code) to the data without client intervention, therefore the importance level assigned to the data is automatically done."

20   Applicants note that Abecassis teaches

> To provide intelligence to the dropping of segments, a video map could, for example, additionally provide information which may be utilized to assess the relative importance of segments, e.g., a segment may be assigned a relevance rating code ranging from 1-10, with
25   > 10 being the most relevant.
> (Col. 56, lines 49-54.)

While Abecassis teaches that "the video map could...*__provide information which may be utilized to__* assess the relative importance of segments," Abecassis does *not* disclose or suggest that a *__machine or video map__* assigns *the __importance level__ without*
30   *client intervention.* Independent claim 1 requires *wherein the digest server converts the meta data into characteristic values, wherein the __digest server__ calculates an __importance level__* for each of a plurality of content segments. Independent claim 5 requires

importance level estimation means, *for estimating an importance level* for each of a plurality of content segments. Independent claim 8 requires a meta data characteristic value database adapted to store characteristic values obtained from meta data included in video content; an *importance level calculator adapted to estimate an importance level* for each of a plurality of scenes in the video content.

Applicants also note that independent claims 12, 14, and 18 were previously amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 1 directed to automatically assigning the importance level. In particular, independent claims 12 and 18 require *wherein said video digest is created based on a processor-generated importance level for each of a plurality of content segments.* Independent claim 14 requires *calculating a video importance level* for each scene based on a probability and based on a determined content score for the scene ...and *wherein said video importance level is calculated by a processor.*

Thus, Abecassis does not disclose or suggest wherein the digest server converts the meta data into characteristic values, wherein the digest server calculates an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments, as required by independent claim 1, does not disclose or suggest importance level estimation means, for estimating an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments, as required by independent claim 5, does not disclose or suggest a meta data characteristic value database adapted to store characteristic values obtained from meta data included in video content; and an importance level calculator adapted to estimate an importance level for each of a plurality of scenes in the video content, as required by independent claim 8, does not disclose or suggest wherein said video digest is created based on a processor-generated importance level for each of a plurality of content segments, as required by independent claims 12 and 18, and does not disclose or suggest calculating a video importance level for each scene based on a probability and based on a determined content score for the scene ...and wherein said video importance level is calculated by a processor, as required by independent claim 14.

<u>Dependent Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17 and 19</u>

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Abecassis.

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17 and 19 are dependent on claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14, and 18, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Abecassis because of their dependency from independent claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 14, and 18 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.
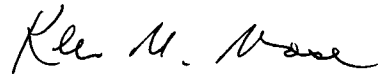
All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-19, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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